



REGULATIONS FOR COMMUNITY MEAL EVENTS

Community meal events and food fundraisers are a great way to engage, support, or celebrate the community and gain recognition of or financial gain for your organization. It is important to follow all applicable laws and regulations prior to holding a community meal event. Using this fact sheet and decision tree, you can determine what steps your organization must take to hold a legal community meal event.

Terminology

1. Temporary Food Establishment (TFE)
 - Establishment that prepares food, operates for a period of time not to exceed 30 days in one location, and is affiliated or endorsed by a transitory fair, carnival, circus, festival, public exhibition, or agritourism business.
2. Temporary Food Establishment Commissary (TFEC)
 - A food establishment that is affiliated with a TFE
 - Prepares food in advance on or off site from the event for a TFE
 - Cannot sell food directly from establishment to consumer

Applicable Laws and Rules

- 15A NCAC 18A.2600: Rules Governing the Protection and Sanitation of Food Establishments
- General Statute 130A-247 to 130A-250

Applying for a Temporary Food Establishment (TFE) Permit

- Applications are made within the local county, not the state
- TFEs require a permit fee paid to the local county (usually \$75)
- Permit applications have to be submitted 15 to 30 days in advance of the temporary meal event. Check specific county requirements.
- Additional applications may be needed for TFE vendors, TFE organizers, and TFECs. Check specific county requirements
- No food can be prepared prior to receipt of permit.



Exemptions

- Incorporated nonprofit corporations
 - Examples: NAACP or Chamber of Commerce
- Establishments exempt from federal income tax under the Internal Revenue Code (ie 501(c)(3) organizations)
 - Charitable organizations (ex. NC Heroes Fund, Myra's Angels)
 - Educational organization (ex. NCSU Extension, NC Edu Corp)
 - Religious organizations (ex. DEP Ministries, Ridgeline Church)
- Political committees

NOTE: Some counties still require a special application for exempt organizations.





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TFE Permit Requirements: Decision Tree

